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THE QUARTERLY

OF THE

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. XI. JULY, 1907. No. 1.

The publication committee and the editors disclaim responsibility for view expressed by contributors to THE QUARTERLY.

GENERAL AUSTIN'S ORDER BOOK FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF 1835.[1]

Head Quarters of the Army of Texas,
Gonsales October 11 1835.

Order No. 1.

General Orders.

Col Stephen F. Austin having been unanimously elected to the office of Commander in chief of the army of Texas hereby assumes the command thereof.

Col. Warren D. C. Hall is appointed Adjutant and Inspector General, and David B. Macomb is appointed Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General of the army of Texas.

P. W. Grayson is appointed aid de Camp.

A general muster and inspection will take place at 9 Oclock A. M. tomorrow 12th October. The line of march will immediately thereafter be taken up for Bexar.

[1]This is one of the most important documents relative to the Texas Revolution hitherto unpublished. The original consists of an unbound manuscript volume of eighty-two pages. Pp. 1-28 and 31-46 are 7¾ by 9½ inches; pp. 29 and 30, 7 by 7⅞; pp. 47-72 and 77-82, 7⅝ by 12½; and pp. 73-76 are on two small inserted scraps of paper about 7¾ by 5. Most of the orders written on the larger sheets are in Austin's hand and are signed with his autograph. Most of the remainder are copied, both the orders and the signatures; but the original of Order No. 2 is lying loose between the leaves of the manuscript. The annotations are all by the editor. The abbreviations L. S., D. S., A. L. S., A. D. S., mean respectively letter signed, document signed, autograph letter signed, and autograph document signed.

Parallel with the Order Book should be read W. T. Austin's account of the campaign, in *A Comprehensive History of Texas*, I 536-560.

Shooting in camp or on the line of march is prohibited The Captains of Companies will make a daily report of the situation and strength of their companies.

A detail of camp, picket and horse guard will be daily made, and an officer of the day and an officer of the guard appointed. The guard will be turned off at 9 O'clock precisely, except when the army is on the march.

[Every (?)] citizen soldier of the army of the people now in the field . . .[1] apprized of the cause he is defending—it is the cause of the Constitution and of fredom: the cause of each man individually and of Texas collectively—our prosperity and happiness will in a great measure depend on the issue of the present campaign—every one feels its importance, and it is unnecessary to appeal to the patriotism of the army. But the Commander in chief deems it his duty to remind each citizen soldier that patriotism and firmness will avail but little, without discipline and strict obedience to orders. The first duty of a soldier is obedience. It is expected that the army of the people altho hastily collected will present an example of obedience that will do honor to the cause we are engaged in, and credit to the patriots who are defending it.

General order.

Head Quarters,
Gonsales October 11th 1835.

Order No 2.

In order to secure the interest of individuals as far as practicable, Pleasant B. McNeil, Randal Jones, Dr. Asa Hoxey, and Ezekiel Williams are hereby appointed appraisers of each man's horse and equipments and all other property employed in the public service during the present campaign. They will make returns of their appraisements to the Adjutant and Inspector Genl as soon as practicable.

Signed S. F. Austin
Com in Chief.

By Order,
David B. Macomb
Asst Adjt and Insp Genl.

[1]One or two words are here torn out.

No 3.

Special order.

Gonzales, October 12th 1835.

In addition to the lances already made Col. Moore will procure fifty more to be furnished as spedely as possible.

(Signed) S F Austin
Com. in Chief.

D B. Macomb
Asst Adjt and Insp. Genl.

General order

Gonsales,
October 21th 1835

No 4.

Patrick Jack is hereby appointed Quarter Master General of the army of Texas

Signed S F. Austin
Com in Chief

David B Macomb
Asst Adt and Inspr Genl.

Head Quaters,
Gonzales October 11th 1835

To Capt. Benjamin F. Smith
and John Alley
Sirs

As the army will cross the Guadaloupe tomorrow at 9 Oclock and take up the line of march for Bexar immediately thereafter; you will please march the troops under your command with all possible dispatch, by the best and shortest route which your position will permit to join the army on its march. You will please communicate this order to Capt. Collinsworth of the Matagorda Volunteers who is supposed from recent information to be in your quater, to form a junction with the army also. You will also please send an express to inform the commander in chief when and where your detatchment will probably join the Army.—

By order

David B Macomb
Asst Ajt and Inspr. Genl

Head Quarters Gonzales Octr. 12, 11 oClock A. M.
1835

To Captn. Benjn. Smith, G. W. Collinsworth and Captn. John Alley.
Gent[lemen],

The information of the taking of Goliad by Captn. Collinsworth has this moment been received.

You were informed by express last night that the army would cross the river, today, and take up the line of march for Bejar, and you were ordered to form a junction as soon as practicable by the best and shortest route which your position would permit.

The army are crossing and will be all over, today, and march with all possible dispatch for Bejar.

The Fort of Labahia must be retained. As at present advised it is considered that one hundred men will be amply sufficient, for that object. The balance of the Detachment, will march with all possible dispatch and join the Army. The point of Junction will depend on the information you may have of the movements of the enemy. I can, therefore only say that the crossing of the Sivolo or of the Salado or some point between them, would be a convenient one.

You will distinctly understand that Labahia is to be retained, and the public stores secured so far as practicable, especially, the army amunitions which are now needed by the army, and you will send as large a supply of them with the detachment which is to join. as can be done without retarding its march too much.

You understand that the position taken by the people of Tejas is to support the Federal Constitution of 1824, and to oppose Centralism.

It is understood that the people of Goliad, and Victoria are in favor of the same cause, we are defending. You will therefore spare no pains to inform them of our principles—and get them to pronounce for the same Cause and elect members to the Consultation which has been post poned till the 1st day of November.

You will send as many men to join the army as can be spared, so as not to endanger the objects mentioned in the communication.

(Signed[)] S. F. Austin, Commander gr.

Special order.

Head Quarters, Octr 12, 1835

Mr. John Kane is authorized to procure from Mr. Benjamin Duncan a Horse for the Campaign to Bejar The horse to be appraised and paid for in the event of his being lost.

[(]Signed) S. F. Austin.

Head Quarters, Gonzales,
Octr 12, 1835

The army is crossing the river and will march against Bejar with all possible dispatch.

You are requested to inform the Volunteers who are starting, of this, and to hurry their march as fast as possible.

An express has informed me of the taking of Goliad. This event is of great importance and will contribute very much to the success of the army cause.

By the enclosed you will be informed that I have been elected Commander in Chief. I have appointed Warren D. C Hall Adjutant General and David B. McComb Assistant Adjutant Genl—Patrick C. Jack Quarter Master Genl. and Valentine Bennett Assistant—P. W. Grayson and Wm. T Austin, Aid de Camps.

The election of the other Field Officers necessary to complete the organization will take place today. All are united and in harmony.

respectfully
Your obt. Svt.
Signed S. F. Austin

To the Committee of Safety—
San Felipe.

Head Quarters, West Bank of
the Guadalupe Octr 13, 1835

Gentlemen

On this day the Volunteer troops of Texas take up the line of march for Bejar.

The whole number of the force here does not exceed 300 men. We have hopes to be joined by the Detachment at Goliad consisting of about 170 men, as an express has been sent to them to leave Goliad and fall in with us on the road we take. But some casualty may by possibility prevent this.

I have therefore to request that you will use every exertion to press on Volunteers, who may come up with us in time to give us important, perhaps indispensable aid in the attack on S. Antonio.[1]

Fail not to use every possible exertion in this respect I beseech you. If there is any inteligence coming on from Nacogdoches, dispatch an Express to them immediately, urging them to hurry on by forced marches to join us.

Let me request you, further, to send on without delay Waggons with what amunition you can procure, for cannon and small arms—powder, lead etc, also provisions such as meal, beans, sugar and coffee and what ever else you may judge necessary for the troops. I wd have you send also 2 Reams of paper 2 bottles of Ink, with a supply of Quills.[1]

The troops are all in high spirits.

Respectfully
Yr. obt Sevt,
S. F. Austin,
Commander etc.

To the Committee of Safety,
San Felipe.

Special Order.

Mr. L. Smithers is hereby ordered to take charge of the ferry boat at Gonzales and hire men to repair it. He will take special care to keep it in good order and bailed out and secure and ready for service at all times.

Head Quaters at Williams place.
Octr 13, 1835
(Signed) S. F. Austin
Commr in chief.

General Orders

Williams place near Guadalupe 13th
Octr 1835

To Lieut. Col. Edward Burleson

You will anounce to the army that John H. Moore is elected Col. Edward Burleson Lieut. Col. and Alexr. Somervill Major of

[1]Opposite these paragraphs the word "Canceled" is written in the margin.

the Regt. Also that Patrick C. Jack is appointed Quater Master Genl. Valentine Bennett Assist. Qr. Master and William T. Austin 2d Aid.

Wm. H. Wharton Esq Judge Advocate

Signed S. F. Austin
Commr. in Chief.

By Order
Warren D. C. Hall
Adjutant and Insptr. Genl

Head Quarters, West Bank Guadalupe,
Oct 13 1835.

Gentlemen,

On this day the volunteer troops of Texas will take up the line of March for Bejar. The whole number of the force here does not exceed 300 men. We have hopes to be joined by a part of the Detachment at Goliad, as an express has been sent to them to join us on the road. But some casualty may by possibility prevent this as Capt. Collinsworth has been ordered not to abandon the fort at that place.

I have therefore to request that you will use every exertion to press on Volunteers who may come up with us in time to give us important—perhaps indispensable aid, in the attack on S Antonio.

Fail not to use any possible exertion in this respect I beseech you. If there is any intelligence of troops coming on from Nacogdoches let an Express be dispatched to them immediately, urging them to hurry on by forced marches to join us and not to stay for the Tenoxtitlan Cannon or anything.

Let me request you further to send on without delay waggons with what amunition you can procure for Cannon and small arms—powder, lead etc also provisions such as meat, beans, Sugar and Coffee and what ever else you may judge necessary for the troops. I would have you send also 2 reams of paper—2 bottles of Ink with a supply of quills, wafers and sealing wax.

I have to inform you that Goliad was taken by Capt. Collinsworth on the 8th inst with fifty men Capts Smith and Alley marched from here previous to my arrival with about 110 men for Victoria which it was reported had been attacked, and they have no doubt formed a junction with Captn. Collinsworth. As many of this force only, as can be spared so as not to endanger the retaking of Goliad

are expected by us; so that a reinforcement from that quarter is uncertain.

(Signed[)] S F Austin Commander

To the Committee of Safety
S. Felipe

Head Quarters West Bank Guadalupe
Octr 13, 1835

To the Commander [*sic*] of Safety
S Felipe

Dr. James B. Miller will deliver to you three officers taken prisoners at Goliad by Captn. Collinsworth. They are Colo. Francisco Sandoval, Captn. Manuel Savariego, and Ensign Antonio Garza. I wish them treated as Gentlemen and that their situation should be made as agreeable and comfortable as possible.

For which purpose I wish them placed under the charge of Governor Zavala should he be at my house, and if not, under that of Mr. Spencer Jack until Mr. Zavala arrives. On their parole of honor, given in writing—the liberty of the town might be given them.

(Signed) S F. Austin

P. S. Captn. Manuel Savariego (who is married to a Texas Lady of Goliad, and who is known to be a man of liberal sentiments and agrees with us in the Cause for which we are fighting and has formerly on one occasion pronounced in favor of Federalism,[1] has been in Consequence of the situation of his family at Goliad, been permitted to return there on his parol of honor.

S F. A.

Head Quarters, West Bank
Guadalupe Octr 13 1835

To the Committee of Safety.
S Felipe.

Gent.

It has been deemed best on Consultation to let Captn Manuel Savariego at liberty, on his parole of honor but he is sent on to S Felipe, that he may have an opportunity to talk with Mr. Zavala

[1]Instead of the comma after this word there should have been a parenthesis mark.

and receive from him an explanation of the Cause we are defending which is the Constitution of 1824, and the Federal System. He says that the General Opinion is that Texas has declared independence and that this opinion prevents the Mexicans from joining us.

You will therefore release him on his written parole of honor not to take up arms—nor do nor say any thing against the Cause we are defending until he is regularly exchanged or the War ceases. Should Mr Zavala be absent, open his letter.

(Signed) S F Austin

General Orders

The guard will parade at head quaters at five Oclock P. M at the beating of the drum. It will consist of a Captain, officer of the day a Lieut. officer of the guard, 4 noncommissioned officers and forty men. It will be divided into four reliefs. After day light the officer of the day will order the guard to herd all the horses near the lines, and after performing this duty he will parade the guard at head quaters by sun rise. The officer of the day will then detail six men from the rear guard who will report themselves to the quater master to aid in driving beeves. The first and second relief will form the front guard under the command of the officer of the day. The third and fourth relief will form the rear guard under the command of the officer of the guard. The baggage waggons will march in the rear of the second Batallion and the rear guard will march in rear of the baggage waggons. The rear guard will bring up all straglers and suffer no one to fall behind. The officer of the day as soon as the guard parade and [are[1]] ready to march off in the evening will report the same to the Adjt. Genl and receive the countersign and instructions.

Signed

S F Austin

General Orders

Head Quaters

Camp Williams Octr. 14th 1835

As good order and deciplin are indispensably necessary in military service, since without them all must fall into chaos and con-

[1]The writer evidently had the plural conception of "guard" in his mind.

fusion and as the present Volunteer army of Texas is so far on the march on a campaign of Vital importance to the lives and interests of all and as yet unprovided with any system of regulations necessary to their own security and the great objects they have in view—The following rules and regulations have by advice and consultation been devised for their government—

1st. It is ordered that the strictest obedience be paid on the part of evry man in the army to the orders and commands of their superior officers.

2nd. Ordered that evry volunteer in the army pay the strictest attention to his arms and amunitions taking care at all times that his gun shall be in the best order for immediate use if necessary and that his horn or powder flask be kept sound dry and in good condition and that he have at all times in readiness a good supply of bullets. For neglect of this order the person offending shall be subject to the reprimand of his Capt. on parade.

3d. It is particularly ordered that the sentinels shall be vigilant and faithful in the discharge of their duty executing with the utmost strictness whatever may be enjoined them. They are especially ordered in no instance to fall asleep *on post.* Any soldier violating this order which is so plainly necessary to the security of the whole army shall be subject to such punishment as may be inflicted by the sentence of a court martial.

4 It is ordered that the strictest good order be observed by the army both in camp and on the march. All riotous conduct and noisy clamorous talk is specially prohibited.

5 Shooting in camp or on the march can by no means be permitted. For the first breach of this order the punishment shall be a public reprimand from the Capt. of the company to which the offender may belong. And for the second breach the party shall be subject to the sentence of a Court Martial.

6 Ordered that evry horse in the army shall be hobbled or tied up by the owner evry night and during each halt through the day.

7 For evry violation of duty or act of disobedience to orders—to which there is no fixed punishment in these articles the person offending shall be responsible to a court martial specially called to pass sentence upon and punish his offense.

8 It is ordered that no company shall consist of less than thirty men or more than seventy (70)

9 It is ordered that evry volunteer in the army who may not yet have attached himself to any company shall immediately enroll himself in some one where he may bear his fair proportion of duty.

10 Ordered That evry company or division of the army on the march keep the order assigned to it without deviating from or leaving its position without special permission and no volunteer shall leave the ranks without permission of the captain

Signed

S F Austin
Comr. in chief

Warren D C Hall,
Adjt and Inspr. Genl

General Orders

Encampment of the Army of Texas.
West Bank of the Guadalupe
Octr 13, 1835

To Lieut. Colo. Burleson,

You will announce the election of John H. Moore Colo of the Regiment, Edward Burleson Lieut Colo. and Alexander Somerville Major.

Also the appointment of Patrick C. Jack Quarter Master General
Valentine Bennett[1] Asst. Quarter Master
Wm. T Austin 2d Aid
Wm. H Wharton Esq. Judge Advocate

By Order
Warren D. C. Hall
Adjutant and Inspector Genl.

Camp Williams Octr. 14, 1835

Captn. Milam,

You will take Command of the Spy Company—take the direction to Bejar—cross the Civola below the crossing, and if possible make prisoners of the guard of Mexican Soldiers stationed at the crossing. Should you Succeed in taking the guard you will Send

[1]Written in the margin opposite this and the two following names is the note "(Recorded before)."

them immediately to the army—after which you will proceed on your rout avoiding the main Crossing of the Salado—crossing above and ascertaining the best route of passing the S. Antonio river above Bejar. You will bear always in mind, to avoid if possible, discovery yourself or giving any alarm to the Mexicans unless you are satisfied by doing so, you will effect some material object. In passing the Civola, if you have any men that are acquainted with the Country, send two of them down the Civola to meet the Detachment from Goliad, which has been ordered to form a junction with the Army at the Civola, or at some intervening point between that and the Salado. You will communicate with me by express at the Civola. Should you meet with any Mexicans on your route, you will make them prisoners and send them immediately to the Army. It is important to ascertain if practicable without discovering yourself, whether the enemy are apprised of the approach of the Army or are making any fortifications or other preparations—also whether any troops have been sent in the last few days to Goliad. It is all important that we hear from you at the Civola.

(By order)

Warren D C Hall
Adjutant and Inspector Genl.

Head Quaters 16th Octr. 1835
Camp Sandy

Noah Scott is appointed Depy Assist. Qua master

S F Austin
Commr in chief.

By order
Warren D C Hall
Adjt. and Insptr. Genl

General Orders.

Camp 3d Sandy Octr. 15, 1835

1st. In the Case of alarm on the march the advance and rear guard will form in the rear of the Centre, and will take charge of all the horses, and tie them up or hobble them: and in case the Army is encamped in a square, the guard will herd the horses in the rear of the Encampment.

2d. Every man must have a rope tied around the neck of his

horse, and in case of his not having one, he must have a hobbling string tied on.

3d. Each Captain will detail, daily, one man for every ten, to take charge of the horses, of his Company, in case of alarm, when mounted and drive them to the center and deliver them to the guard; after performing which service, they will return to their respective Companies.

4th. Each Batallion will be divided by the Field officers of the Regiment into two Divisions, as nearly equal as possible, and report the same to the Adjutant General stating the strength of each Division

(Signed) S F. Austin
Commander in chief

Wm [*sic*] D. C. Hall,
Adjt. and Inspr. Genrl.

Head Quarters Civola
Octr 17, 1835

Mr. Martin,

I wish you to permit your mill to grind meal for the Troops to be sent out here with as little delay as possible. This measure is indispensable—it must be done. You can hire [some one] to attend the mill or a person will be detailed to do it and the mill placed under his charge

(Signed) S F Austin
Comr in chief

Camp on the Civola Octr. 16
9 oClock p m

This day the army occupied this position on the left bank of the Civolo where it will remain until the reinforcements from the red Lands and others join. I have dispatched this Express to inform the troops who are on the road of this, and to hurry them on by forced marches.

The spies have discovered the trail of a Detachment of about one hundred of the enemy's cavalry about ten miles beyond this. There is no doubt the enemy are informed of the movement of the army.

Signed
S F Austin

To the Committee of Safety,
S. Felipe

Division del Ejercito Federal de Tejas

[1]Deseando evitar los funestas consequencias de la guerra Civil que desgraciadamte amenaza a Texas, deseo enviar a V. S. un oficial con una bandera pa. llevar una comunicacion a v. s. que espero resultará en el reestablacemiento de la paz y la confianza en Texas. De consiguiente espero que se servira vs. decirme se recebiria el dicho oficial en el caracter indicado, con los corespondientes guarantias para su escolta de seis o ocho hombres. Llevará una bandera blanca para que sean conocidos y la misma bandera sera respetada de parte de las tropas de mi mando.

Dios Federacion y Libertad. Civolo 17, de Octubre, 1835.

S F Austin

Martin Perfecto De Cos

(Unofficial)

Civolo 17, de Octubre 1835

[2]Sor Grl D Martin Perfecto de Cos,

Acabo de recebir en este punto la carta de V. fecha en Goliad el 5 del Corriente.

[1]*Translation.*

Texas Division of the Federal Army.

Desiring to avoid the sad consequences of the civil war which unfortunately threatens Texas, I wish to send your excellency an officer with a flag [of truce] in order to open a negotiation with you which I hope will result in the re-establishment of peace and confidence in Texas. Consequently I hope your excellency will be pleased to tell me that the said officer will be received in the capacity indicated, with corresponding guarantees for his escort of six or eight men. He will carry a white flag in order that they may be recognized, and the same flag will be respected by the troops of my command.

God, Federation, and Liberty. Cibolo, October 17, 1835.

S. F. Austin.

Martin Perfecto de Cos.

[2]*Translation.*

(Unofficial.)

Civolo, October 17, 1835.

Sr. Gen. D. Martin Perfecto de Cos:

I have just this moment received your letter dated Goliad, the 5th inst. By the despatch which goes with this I have indicated to you that I desire to send an officer with a flag [of truce], in order to open communication with you concerning the unfortunate discords which exist in Texas. I can not doubt that thus will be opened the way for the satisfactory adjustment of all the affairs of Texas. This is my desire, and I will contribute to the attainment of so important an object to the extent that my duty will permit. Hoping that you will answer me tomorrow, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. F. Austin.

Por el oficio que va con esta, he manifestado a V. que deseo enviar un official con una bandera, para llevar una communicacion a V. sobre las desgraciadas desavenencias que existan en Texas. No puedo dudar asi se abrira el paso para el arreglo de todas las cosas de Texas satisfactoriamte. Este es mi deseo y contribuyeré al logro de tan importante objeto en quanto me permeterá mi deber. Esperando que me contestara manaña quedo de V. el atento servidor.

S F Austin.

Head Quarters of the Army of Texas
Camp at the Civolo
October 18th, 1835

General order

Doctor William D.[1] Smith is hereby appointed Surgeon of the Army. He will appoint as many assistants as he may deem necessary. The Captains of each company will report o he Surgeon of the army all their sick and no one will be exempt from duty without a certificate from the surgeon or one of his Assistants.

By order

Stephen F. Austin
Com. in Chief
Army of Texas.

David B. Macomb
Assist Adjt and Inspr. Genl.

General Order.

Head Quarters Federal Army of Texas.
Camp on the Civolo October 18th 1835

The Captains of each company will furnish to the Adjutant and Inspector General of the Army a roster or muster roll of all his rank and file, to be then deposited as an archive by which to ascertain the names of all those who fought for the constitution in its most trying hour.

By order

Stephen F Austin
Com. in chief

David B Macomb
Asst Adjt and Inspctor Genl
Federal Army of Texas

[1]This initial is rather uncertain.

General Order.

Head Quarters of the Federal Army of Texas
Camp on the Civola Octr 18 1835

Major William H. Jack is hereby appointed Brigade Inspector of the Federal Army of Texas. The troops will hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning to meet the enemy.

By order

Stephen F. Austin
Com. in chief
Federal Army of Tex.

David B Macomb,
Asst Adj. and Inspectr Genl
Federal Army of Texas

Special Order.

Head Quarters Fed Army
of Texas
Camp on the Civolo October 18 1835

The Companies commanded by Captains Faning Hall Goheen, and Robinson will hold themselves in readiness to march under the immediate command of Col Moore in fifteen minutes. The men belonging to he above named companies who are now on guard will report hemselves to their respective commanders forth with.

By order

Stephen F. Austin
Com. in Chief.

David B Macomb
Asst Adjt and Inspr. Genl

Head Quarters, Camp Sevolo Octr. 19, 1835

To the Council of Safety etc
S. Felipe,

The Army will take up the line of march from this point tomorrow morning and move toward Bejar as far as the Salado which is within five miles of the town.

There it will take a secure position to await further reinforcements and to effect other important objects of observation on the movements of the enemy and of annoyance to their scouting parties etc. It is now well ascertained that the people of the town are

well affected to our cause and will probably be ready, when occasion offers, to render us essential aid.

The army is in high spirits and eager to advance, but are at the same time not disposed to act precipitately or rashly.

It is confidently expected that we shall be able to act conclusively within a very few days.

S F Austin
Com. in chief

Warren D C Hall
Adj't and Inspr. Genl.

P. S Since the taking of Labahia the enemy has been busily engaged in fortifying S Antonio, barracading the streets, placing cannon on the top of the church cutting down trees, and in evry way exerting themselves to make a vigorous defense.

The Committee are required to furnish every facility to Doctr. Hoxy in the discharge of his duty by pressing horses wagons and whatever else may be necessary for the object in view.

S. F. Austin
Comr. in chief

By order
Warren D C. Hall
Adjt and Insp. Genl.

Head Quarters,
Camp Sevolo Octr. 19, 1835

Doctr. Asa Hoxy is hereby detailed and ordered to return to the Colony for the purpose of taking measures to bring on to the Army with all possible dispatch the Cannon and amunition that it is believed may be now on the way, and as much more of the latter for Cannon as can be possibly procured. He is required to accelerate their progress by all the means in his power and to effect this object, he is authorized to hire or press horses waggons and whatever else may be necessary.

S F Austin
Comr. in chief

By order
Warren D C Hall
Adjt. and Inspr. Genl

Head Quarters Camp Sevolo Octr 18, 1835

At a Council of War held at this point consisting of Genl S F. Austin Commander in chief, Col Warren D C Hall Adjutant and

Inspector Genl. Asst. Adjt. Genl. D B. Macomb Colo. John H. Moore, Lieut. Colo. Burleson, Majr Wm H. Wharton, Judge Advocate Majr Alexr. Somervill Captn Fanning, Captn. Coleman, Captn. I Hall Capt Goheen, Capt. Alley Captn. R. Jones, Captn. Robison Lieut. Arrington.

The object of the Call of a Council of War being explained by the Commander in chief to be to submit in the first place to the Decision of the Court the propriety of a further halt at this point, to wait for reinforcements that are expected to join the Army within a few days, so as to Secure a greater force for future operations:

The Question being put by the Commander in chief whether the halt till the reinforcements come up, should be made, the same was decided unanimously in the afirmative.

It was then proposed by the Commander in chief to hold a Communication with the Commandant at Bejar Genl Martin P. de Cos, stating to him the grounds upon which the people of Texas have taken up arms at the present moment and the terms upon which they are willing to lay them down and the following communication being read and submitted, it was adopted as fit and proper to be made, by sending in a flag, after the receipt of suitable guarantees for its security.

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters Camp Sivolo Octr. 19, 1835

At a Council of war held here, consisting of Genl S F Austin Commander in chief, Colo. Warren D. C. Hall Adjutant Genl. Wm H Jack Brigade Inspector, Colo. D B McComb Asst. Adjt. Genl. Colo. John H. Moore Lieut. Colo. Burleson, Majr Wm H Wharton, Judge Advocate, Majr. Alexr. Somerville Captn. Fanning, Captn. I Hall Capt Goheen, Captn. Ebberly, Capt. Coleman, Captn. Robison, Captn. Martin, Captn. Alley and Lieut. Travis.

On the proposition of the Com. in chief, to rescind the resolution of yesterday, for a further halt at this point, for reasons resulting from information received last evening—the information being communicated to the Council and being received as satisfactory in support of the proposition, it was carried unanimously, and the resolution accordingly rescinded, leaving it discretionary with the

Com in chief to march the army from this point with as much promptness as he may deem expedient.

S F Austin.

Head Quarters on the Salado
20th Octr. 1835

To all the Volunteers on the road,

The army took up this position early this morning. The enemies outposts retired before our spies and advance without loss on either side. This position is within less than five miles of Bejar. The enemies out posts are in sight on the top of the hill between this and Bejar. The reinforcements are specially ordered to push on by forced Marches—on this side of the Civolo they ought to march in companies of not less than ten or fifteen. It is particularly enjoined on all the Volunteers who arrive at Gonzales to furnish a guard for the beeves that Mr Kent or Mr. Fuqua are bringing on.

S F. Austin
Comr in chief

By order
Warren D C Hall
Adjt Genl.

Head Quaters Camp Celado
21st Octr. 1835

To The Commandant of Goliad

You will deliver to Lieut. Randon twenty packs flour in your possession, or which can be had from the public stores, and in the event of there not being a sufficient quantity in the public stores you will procure it from individuals. You will also deliver to him two packs of Sugar and Coffee and seven kegs of powder if to be had and if that quantity can not be procured as much as can.

Head Quaters
Camp Espada 27th Octr, 1835

General Orders

The guard will be detailed and ordered to parade evry morning at nine o'clock.

The commandant of each company is positively ordered to turn out the officers and non commd officers and men detailed from their respective companies and have them marched to the place

where the guard parades precisely at nine oclock A. M. and report them to [the] Adjutant.

The adjutant of the regiment is positively ordered to parade the guard call the roll and deliver them to the officer of the day precisely at 9 o'clock A. M. He will then report to the adjt genl receive the countersign and instruction He will then post the guard accompanied by the officer of the day. He will then dismiss the guard.[1]

Head Quaters Camp Celado
21st. Octr. 1835

To the Commandant of Goliad

The operations against Bexar will prevent any movements of the enemy against Goliad. You will therefore furnish any [an] ample and strong detachment to Lieut. Randon to convey [convoy(?)] the provisions etc under his charge. You will also send one or both of the cannon that are mounted for field service together with a sufficiency of ammunition. You will procure mules horses or oxen to bring the cannon. It is considered that twenty men besides the citizens, will be amply sufficient to retain possession of that place, that all the balance of that garrison can join the army before Bexar.[2] This will be your authority to press wagons oxen mules horses or whatever may be necessary to effect the object of this order and of the other of this date relative to Flour and other articles embraced in it to be delivered to Lieut. Randon.

Head Quarters Camp Salado

To the Commandant at Goliad,

Octr 22, 1835

You will with as little delay as possible despatch to this point one hundred barrels of flour six boxes of sugar—six sacks of Coffee—2 barrels of wine and one of Rum or brandy and seven kegs of powder, and 300 lbs. tobacco, and for this purpose you will Contract for Carts waggons oxen mules horses or whatever else may be necessary to transport the aforementioned articles to this place.

[1]This paragraph was written twice in slightly different form and deleted before it finally took that in which it is given here.

[2]Opposite this sentence in the margin is written the word "Canceled."

You will give instructions to the persons charged with the duty of transporting them to followthe Bejar road, up as far as the Salado. But a guard will be dispatched from here which will probably meet them at a point much lower down to give them suitable protection. Care shall be taken to have the guard far enough on the way in time. They will of course come on till they meet the guard.

By order S F. Austin.

Warren D C Hall

Adj. Genl

P S. I had omitted the article of salt. Send a good supply of that as there is not now enough in Camp to last for 3 days.

Head Quaters Camp Salado 22d Octr, 1835

To Capt. P Demit

Dr Sir

I recd yours of 17th Inst last night. I am much pleased with your exertions to send us on supplies of which we are greatly in want. The flour etc you dispatched has not yet arrived, being stopped at the Cevolo by the difficulty of crossing; but it will soon be brought up by mules that have been sent down this morning.

You will receive an order by this express to send us on still larger supplies, which I beg you will use evry exertion in your power to execute for I assure you the men here are beginning to suffer greatly for the want of bread etc etc I approve of your suggestion in regard to keeping possession of the Fort at Goliad, and you will receive this as an order to that effect. I have evry confidence in the patience of the volunteers in remaining under your command; to retain the important advantage already gained by the taking La Bahia. In evry point of view the retention of that place is necessary to us an[d] I trust it will be maintained by the joint efforts of yourself and those under your command. If you receive further information of an authentic character in regard to the landing of troops at Copeno—despatch an express immediately to Head Quaters that measures may be taken to meet the contingency.

Respectfully

By order S F Austin

Warren D C Hall

Adjt. Genl

Head Quaters Camp Salado
22d Octr. 1835

To Col James Bowie

You will proceed with Capt. Fannins Division to the missions of San Juan Espardo [Espada] an[d] San Jose and examine the state and situation of those places. [1]The quantity of corn and other provisions, the disposition of the inhabitants to the cause we are defending where the Caballado is and all other information of an interesting or important nature. Also endeavour to procure a number of cart loads of corn and beans to be brought here without delay. It is important to keep possession of one of the missions as it will secure supplies of provisions and also protect the La Bahia road. You and Capt. Fannin will however use your discretion as to retaining possession at this time.

Send down to the Ranches and gather what information you can

By order S. F. Austin
W D C Hall
Adjt. Insptr. Genl

Head Quarters Camp Salado
Octr 22, '35

The first Division of the first Batallion, under the command of James Bowie, is ordered to proceed forth with to the Missions of San Juan Espada and San Jose, for the purpose of gaining information in regard to the present condition of those places—the supplies of corn there—the disposition of the inhabitants and other purposes as expressed in the instructions given to the commander of the detachment—with discretion to keep possession of one of the missions if deemed expedient.

S. F. Austin.

Head Quarters Camp Salado
Octr 23, 1835

To Captn. Dimit
Commandant of Goliad,

D Juan Seguin is appointed to raise a Company of volunteers of native Mexicans in defence of the Constitution and Federal Sys-

[1]What follows, though written as a separate sentence, is syntactically a part of that which precedes.

tem. He will need arms and amunition—you will furnish him with what he calls for of both so far as the stock on hand will permit.

S F Austin etc

By order
Warren D C Hall
Adjt Genl.

Head Quarters Camp Salado
Octr 23d, 1835

To Col. John H Moore,

You will announce the appointment of Doctr. Pollard as surgeon of the Regiment and Doctr. Richardson as surgeon of the Staff

S. F. Austin

By order
Warren D C Hall
Adjt. Genl.

Postscript of 23d to letter to Captn. Demit dated Octr 22

Octr 23

Your Communications of 19 and 20th. have been received and contents duly noted.

The operations against Bejar will prevent the enemy from making any attack on Goliad, and the fall of Bejar will close the Campaign. Captn. Alleys Company has principally joined the army and I understand from the report of those who have arrived that others will join today, so that it will be impossible to order that Company back to Goliad. You will therefore retain the force you have at that place and keep possession. Some more men can be drawn from the Colorado and Bay Prairie in case of emergency.

I have given authority to D Juan Seguin to contract for pack mules to bring up salt, Flour etc. from Goliad. He will write to you on the subject. Send two packs of salt. I have appointed Juan Seguin a Captn. of the Federal Army and he will raise a Company of Mexicans. Inform your men, of this that he may be respected as such and as a devoted friend of the Constitution.

S F. Austin

Head Quaters Camp Sebolo
23 Octr. 1835.

The commander in chief announces to the army information of the most encouraging nature from the Interior—That the cause of the constitution and the Federal system is there gaining new strength, daily,—that Genl. Alvarez a warm Federalist has lately gained two imporant victories over the troops of the Dictator—Santa Anna, and has been joined by two other Generals of distinction, Montenegro and Grozman—That the troops at Saltillo and San Luis which had been destined and were actually on the march for Texas had been ordered back on account of troubles behind them—

He further announces that D. Juan Seguin the Mexican who came to camp last night with his followers and left this morning has given the most flattering account of the good disposition of the citizens generally in Bexar and its neighborhood. Their friendship to the cause we are defending and their willingness to serve us. He has appointed Mr Seguin a Captn. in the army vesting him with authority to raise a company of Mexican Volunteers to cooperate with us. They will be of essential service in many respects—The Commander in Chief deems it his duty to anounce also a vague rumor he has received, that troops to the number of 300 were on the march from Matamoras and other parts destined for the garrison at the Nueces and the recapture of La Bahia. But this rumor is by no means to be credited as there is no sufficient authority to support it.

The troops from the Nachogdoches Department are confidently expected to join us within a few days. As soon as they arrive the force here will be deemed competent for further and more important operations. At all events the time cannot be long before the valour and patriotism of the Freemen of Texas will have an opportunity to display themselves upon the heads of Military despots and the enemies of Freedom. In the mean time the commander in chief exhorts his countryment to be patient and firm in the discharge of their duty enduring, as Freemen have always been known to do evry privation for the sake of the sacred cause they are defending.—

Headquarters Camp Salado
Ejercito federal de Texas[1]
Octr 24, 1835

[2]V. esta plenamente autorizado pa. contratar con los vecinos ó dueños de Ranchos pa. cien fanegas de mais y dies de frijoles ó chicharos pa. este ejercito, al precio corriente, entregados en el campamento del ejercito, en la inteligencia que se pagara en dinero, ó se dara libranzas contra Orleans y que ademas de la fe publica, del pueblo de los departamentos de Brazos y Nacogdoches se comprometen los principales capitalistas de Texas quienes estan ahora en este ejercito pa. el fiel y debido pajo del importe del mais, y de todo lo demas que se compra de los vecinos.

Al Senor D Juan N. Seguin

S F. Austin

By order Warren D C Hall
Adj Genl.

Head Quarters Octr. 23, '35
Camp Salado

[3]El acreditado patriota D Juan Seguin esta nombrado Capi-

[1]In the original these words are placed so as to indicate that the army is addressed, but they are evidently intended rather as part of the date.

[2]*Translation.*

Federal Army of Texas.
Headquarters, Camp Salado,
October 24, 1835.

You are fully authorized to contract with the inhabitants or owners of ranches for one hundred *fanegas* [about two hundred and sixty-seven bushels] of corn and ten of beans or peas for this army, at the current price, delivered in the encampment of the army, with the understanding that payment will be made in money, or that bills of exchange on [New] Orleans will be given, and that in addition to the public faith of the people of the departments of Brazos and Nacogdoches the principal capitalists of Texas, who are now in this army, are pledged for the faithful and due payment of the value of the corn and of all else that is bought from the inhabitants.

S. F. Austin.

To Señor D. Juan N. Seguin.
By order.
Warren D. C. Hall,
Adj. Gen.

[3]*Translation.*

Head Quarters,
Camp Salado,
Oct. 23, '35.

The trusty patriot D. Juan Seguin is appointed captain in the federal army of Texas, and as such is fully authorized to raise a company of

tan del ejercito federal de Texas, y como tal esta plenamente autorizado para levantar una compania de patriotas pa. obrar en contra de los Centralistas y militares y en defensa de la Constitucion de 1824 y el sistema federal

S F. Austin

By order Warren D C Hall
Adj Gen.

[(]Ejercito federal)

[1]El Capitan D Juan Seguin esta encargardo de mandar hasta diez mulas de carga a Goliad pa. traer recursos de harina sal y otras cosas que he pedido del comandante de aquel puesto, y de contratar con los dueños de los mulas á precio corriente que sera fielmte, pagado

S. F. Austin

By Order
Warren D C Hall
Adj Gen

Head Quarters Oct 24 35
Camp Salado.

To James Bowie Esq and Capt. Fannin,

Your communications of 22 and 23 have been received and are very satisfactory. The Adjutant General visits you today and will give you instructions as to your movements. D. Juan Seguin came to Head Quarters day before yesterday and left here yesterday morning—I have appointed him a Capt. of the Federal army to raise a company from the Ranches and Missions.

S. F. Austin

patriots to operate against the Centralists and military in defense of the constitution of 1824 and the federal system.

S. F. Austin.

By order
Warren D. C. Hall,
Adj. Gen.

[1]*Translation.*

Federal Army.

Captain D. Juan Seguin is charged with sending as many as ten pack mules to Goliad to bring supplies of flour, salt, and other things which I have asked of the commandant of that post and with contracting with the owners of the mules at the current price, which will be faithfully paid.

S. F. Austin.

By order.
Warren D. C. Hall,
Adj. Gen.

Head Quaters Camp Salado
Octr. 24th 1835

To the Council of Safety
S. Felipe

Gentlemen

On this day I have commenced the investment of San Antonio and feel sanguine in my expectations of reducing the place within a few days if the expected reinforcements arrive but not other wise. You will therefore immediately perceive the urgent necessity there is for hurrying out Volunteers, who ought to come on with all possible speed without waiting or delaying for any cause whatever. Evry day since we have been here there has been more or less skirmishing between our advanced parties and those of the Enimy. In evry instance the enimy has retreated; upon several occasions with some damage. In a skirmish day before yesterday they had one or two wounded, one mortally, and in one of this morn they had some 4 or 5 killed and many wounded.

It is ascertained beyond doubt that the Inhabitants about here and Sant Antonio are favourable to our cause—Juan Seguin with a few men came to camp 2 days ago to offer their services and I have appointed him a Capt. to raise a company of Mexican Volunteers who are to join the Army as soon as possible.

The great object of this communication is to urge the necessity of the Volunteers coming on as fast as possible without delaying or waiting for any thing.

Should the troops from Nachogdoches meet this express they will send a runner ahead to inform me when they will get up.

Signed
S. F. Austin

Head Quarters Camp Salado, Oct 23 1835

To Captn. Demit
Comandt at Goliad,

I have recd yours of 21st. I am happy to have it in my power to relieve your anxiety on the subject of an attack from Bejar. I have information of the most undoubted character in regard to the troops that have arrived lately or can arrive soon at that point. I Know that the whole now there inclusive of old and new troops cannot exceed 650 men. The only reinforcement that has lately

arrived is 30 men under Capt. Barragan, who reached Bexar last night. There is not the least reason to expect any more in time, to oppose our movements. It is my intention in a day or two to commence such operations on the town as totally to shut in the whole force now there. The consequence will be at least certainly that no detachment can leave for Labahia. You therefore may feel perfectly secure from this side. I have no doubt, by investing the place closely on all sides, as I intend to do shortly, it will be obliged to surrender for want of provisions. Scarce a day has passed since our reaching this point without more or less skirmishing between advanced parties from both sides, which in every instance have resulted in the retreat of the enemy without any loss on our part. It is believed that many of them have been killed. We have taken a prisoner with his horse and accoutrements. The enemy acknowledge the loss of one man shot in the eye and an officer wounded. The missions are all in our possession, and the communication with Goliad cut off. The Inhabitants generally are favorable to our cause and from present appearances, there is evry probability of reducing the place within 7 or 8 days. I informed you by express that left today that D. Juan Seguin had been here and that I had appointed him Capt. of a Company of Volunteer Mexicans to be raised by himself. Under all these circumstances I repeat my conviction that you need have no apprehension from this quarter. I nevertheless recommend and order the continuance of your exertions and Vigilance with the force under your command to place the fortress you hold in the best state of defense, that is possible and I positively order that no man shall leave his post, under you, without your permission under the penalty of being reported and published as a Deserter.

P S. Oct 24. This morning within a mile of this place, a skirmish took place, between an advanced party of ours and one of the enemy which resulted in their retreat with a loss it is supposed of 8 or 10 Killed and some wounded, no loss on our side.

S F. Austin

Head Quarters, Camp Salado,
Oct. 24, 1835

(Confidential.)

To the Council of Safety etc
S. Felipe,

I recd. on yesterday your private Communication of 16th inst. I confess I feel great delicacy in taking any measure in regard to the suspected, it may be guilty individual referred to (J A W). In the first place as he lives and conducts his operations, what ever they may be without the limits of the Department from which I have derived all my powers I should be reluctant to stretch my authority so far as to reach him. Besides altho the statements in regard to his imputed conduct, have no doubt come from the most respectable Sources yet perhaps they are not sufficiently clear and conclusive, to warrant a proceeding against him at the present moment so serious and responsible as an arrest. Even if I had the power I should be loth to exercise it as at present advised. Particularly as I am unable to think that the man, let his disaffection be what it may, can in opposition to the universal sentiment prevailing through the whole country in favor of our proceedings do any essential harm to the cause.

You will of course see that his conduct is narrowly watched and I can only say in the event that sufficient proof [of] his guilt can be procured, that I will not scruple a moment to go any length in my power to have him immediately arrested and properly disposed of.

Head Quarters Camp Salado Oct 24, /35

To James Bowie Esq, and Capt. Fannin
Gent[lemen],

I received yours of this evening by Col. Hall who arrived since dark I have ordered a reinforcement of fifty men to joint you to night and the men are now out trying to get up their horses. But it is uncertain whether they will all succeed; as many of the number however as can get ready will set off as soon as possible to night.

I am sorry to inform you that it is impossible to raise here the ready money you want to purchase supplies. I send you how-

ever the joint obligation of myself and many others which I have no doubt will be received by the mayor domo of the Missions, in the room of money in hand. You giving him a certificate or receipt for every thing you get. In the event this arrangement will not satisfy him there is no resource left but to follow the Law of necessity, and take what you want, taking care however to present an exact account of every thing which you will present to the Adjt. as a Voucher which he may hereafter use.

S F Austin

By order,
Warren D C Hall
Adjt Genl.

Head Quarters Camp Salado Octr 25 1835

Dr. Asa Hoxey is hereby released from the order to attend in person to bringing out the Cannon etc and he is authorized to appoint another in his place so that he can attend the General Consultation of which he is a member

S F. Austin
Comr. in chief

Camp Selado 26th October 1835

A company of horse will be organized by Col Moore to be formed by those who have double barrel shot guns and pistols

Signed S F Austin
Commr. in Chief.

To Col John H Moore
By Order
W D C Hall
Adjutant and Insptr. Genl

Camp Selado Octr 26 1835

The troops who are coming on will turn off the road at the Sivolo and march to the Mission of Espada below Bexar. Orders have been given to blaize out a way for this purpose—a guard has been detailed at Civolo, to direct those who come on. They Should leave the Civolo in bodies and organized and keep their horses secure at night, and a strict guard. The officer will send on an Express, when he gets near the Missions to inform me of the approach of any troops. The Nacogdoches troops are ordered to fur-

nish a guard for the Waggons that are coming on, and protect them from the Civolo, and should those troops have passed, any others on the road are ordered to do the same

S. F. Austin.

Head Quarters Mission Espada
Octr. 27, 1835

Lieut. Travis is hereby authorized to raise a volunteer Company of Cavalry of not less than fifty or more than Eighty men—each man to be armed with a double barrell gun or Yager and brace of pistols. Without the Consent of the Capt. not more than one tenth of his Company shall be permitted to volunteer in the proposed corps

S F Austin

By order
Warren D C Hall
Adjt Genl

Head Quarters Oct 28 '35

The Army is now in presence of the enemy—prompt Obedience to Orders and strict discipline will soon effect the great objects of the Campaign, but without them nothing but disgrace and ruin will be the result. It is therefore expressly ordered that any Officer who disobeys orders, shall be immediately arrested and suspended from his Command, until a Court Martial decides his case. The Colonel of the Regiment will Circulate this order without delay to every officer and Company in his Regiment.

S. F. Austin

By order
Warren D. C. Hall
Adjt Genl.

General Orders

Head Quaters 27th Oct 1835

[1]The guard will be detailed and ordered to parade evry morning at nine o-clock. The Commandant of each company is positively

[1]This order is the last written on the sheets of smaller size. Underneath it is penciled the following note, apparently in the hand of Colonel Guy M. Bryan, who was long the possessor of the Austin Papers: "Several sheets have been mutilated and separated in the class of this manuscript order book."

ordered to turn out the Officers, non Commissioned Officers and men detailed from their respective Companies and have them marched to the place where the guard parades precisely at nine O-clock in the morning, and report them to the Adjutant.

The Adjutant of the Regiment is positively ordered to parade the guard call the roll and deliver them to the officer of the day precisely at nine O-clock in the morning.

He and the officers of the day will then report to the Adjutant General, receive the countersign and instructions

He will then post the guard accompanied by the officers of the day.

He will then dismiss the old guard.

S. F. Austin

By order
Warren D. C. Hall
Adjt. and Inspct Genl

(Copy.[1])

Head Quarters
Mission Espada
October 27th, 1835.

Colonel James Bowie,
Volunteer Aid:

You will proceed with the first division of Captain Fannin's company and others attached to that division and select the best and most secure position that can be had on the river, as near Bejar as practicable to encamp the army tonight, keeping in view in the selection of this position pasturage and the security of the horses, and the army from night attacks of the enemy.

You will also reconnoiter, so far as time and circumstances will permit, the situation of the outskirts of the town, and the approaches to it, whether the houses have been destroyed on the outside, so as to leave every approach exposed to the raking of cannon.

You will make your report with *as little delay as possible,* SO AS TO GIVE TIME TO THE ARMY TO MARCH AND TAKE UP ITS POSITION

[1]This order is copied in the Order Book in pencil.

BEFORE NIGHT. Should you be attacked by a large force send an express *immediately* with the particulars.

S. F. Austin

By order
P W Grayson,
Aid-de-camp

Orderly Book Continued.

(Substantially a correct copy.[1])

Head Quarters Mission Concepcion,
1½ miles from Bexar Oct 28, 1835

To the President of the Consultation of Texas,

I have the honor to inform you that the enemy to the number of about 300 Cavalry, and 100 infantry as nearly as can be ascertained with two pieces of Cannon at Sunrise this morning attacked a Detachment of the Army (under the Command of Col. Bowie and Capt. Fannin) composed of ninety men who were posted at this place, and after a warm engagement of 3 hours were repulsed with the loss of one piece of Cannon a Six pounder, and about 30 muskets 16 men left dead on the field and from the best accounts nearly as many more that were carried off.—The number of wounded we can only conjecture, with the exception of two that remained on the field.

It is with great regret I have to say that on our side we had one man Richd. Andrews of Mina dangerously wounded, I fear mortally. But we have sustained no other loss except a few horses. The main body of the Army came up in about 30 minutes after the enemy had retired.

A more circumstantial account of this Action, which has resulted so gloriously to the Federal Army and more particularly to the individuals immediately engaged, will be given, so soon as it can be made out.

The overwhelming superiority of force and the brilliancy of the victory gained over them speak for themselves in terms too expressive to require for me any further eulogy. I must urge the

[1]This, together with the postscript appended to the letter, suggests that the original was lost before it was copied into the Order Book, and that it had to be reproduced from memory.

necessity there is for sending on as speedily [as possible], additional reinforcements in order to bring the campaign to a close without delay, which otherwise may be protracted and tedious, for the reason that Bexar is strongly fortified, well supplied with Cannon, and defended by a force much superior to ours. I have just learned that the Cavalry of the enemy was commanded by Col. Ugartechea and the infantry by Col. D. Marion Cos a brother of the Genl. D. Martin Perfecto [Cos].

P. S. If it is possible procure a good supply of balls for the Cannon. (Note a request for 2 or 3000 $ ready cash, language not recollected.)

Head Quarters above Bexar
Nov. 4

[1]Tho. J. Rusk is appointed Aide de camp in place of P. W. Grayson, untill the return of said Grayson, who has been sent to San Felipe on public business—also James Bowie is appointed Adjt Genl untill the return of the Adjt Genl. W. D. C. Hall, who has been dispatched to San Felipe on public business.

S. F. Austin.

Nov. 6.

This day James Bowie resigned his appointment as acting Adjt. Genl and Francis Johnson was appointed in his place.

S. F. Austin

Head Quaters 6th Nov 1835

To Capt. Brisco.

Information has just been received that reinforcements are expected by the Enimy from the Rio Grand and Laredo roads. Also that the soldiers go out night and day towards the West and bring in Grass and beeves for the supply of the Enemy in the fortification. Also that a mail from the Rio Grand ought to arrive some time to night or to-morrow. You will therefore proceed with all possible dispatch for the West of Bexar on the Leona as far as the Madina approaching as near Bexar as you think proper for the purpose of obtaining information as to reinforcements, intercepting regular Mails or Expresses—watching for the money that

[1]A. D. S.

is still expected (according to information just received) which is still expected from Matamoras preventing beef, cattle, or other supplies from entering Bexar and harr[a]ssing the enimy in evry in any [*sic*] way possible. You will remain out to night and until tomorrow night should you perceive any important information can be expected thereby taking care to prevent the enemy taking in Grass or other supplies during the night.

S F Austin
Commr in Chief

Head Quarters
Concepcion November 9th 1835

To Cap. J W. Fannin,

Information has been received from various channels—that a large number of packs with supplies of flour and other articles for the enemy in Bexar, escorted by fifty or sixty men who are also bringing on seventy or eighty convicts as recruits for the besieged, are on the road from Laredo.

It is of the greatest importance to the service that these supplies should be taken and the party destroyed or dispersed who are bringing them on, so as to prevent their reaching the enemy.

You will therefore proceed as speedily as possible with not less that one hundred nor more than 150 men with the best guides you can procure, in the two encampments, in the direction of the Laredo road to intersept the said convoy.

Your detachment will be composed of as many men of your own company as have horses able to perform the trip; of Volunteers from the Nacogdoches battallion and by a detail from Col. Burlison's command above town.

In the discharge of this duty much must be left to your own discretion. According to the information the convoy ought to reach the Atascosa, distant about thirty miles from here, to night, at or before reaching said creek it will leave the road probably on the north side and travel principally in the night through the woods and bye paths. This will render it indispensably necessary for you to keep out spies in every direction so as to find the trail and examine every road and bye way for which purpose it will be important to establish a stationed camp at some conceiled place on the Atascosa so that your spies may know where to find you.

This however you will regulate according to your own judgment and circumstances.

The greatest dispatch and rapidity of movement is necessary to succeed in this matter. You will therefore loose no time.

You will have the enclosed directions delivered to the inhabitants on the Medina and Atascosa prohibiting them from taking any beeves or any other supplies to Bexar or having any communication with that place.

Travis was to have stayed at Salinas rancho on Atascosa last night. You will inquire for him and incorporate his party with yours. Since writing the above I have additional information that the guard of the Convoy is 200, and the Convicts, 300, your force will therefore consist of 150 men.

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters 10th Nov 1835

It is ordered that when a guard is detailed no one shall leave his post on any service or pretext whatever without leave in writing from Head Quarters.

It is further ordered that the officer of the day and of the guard shall on no pretext leave their posts without orders.

It is also ordered that no one leave the camp without written permission and the centinels must be particularly instructed to prevent any one passing the lines without such written permission.

Any one who shall be found off his post or asleep while on his post as a centinel shall be forthwith arrested and tryed by a court martial.

Any person who shall interfere with corn brought into camp until it is divided out by the Quarter Master shall be arrested and punished as a court martial shall direct.

All horses mules or any other property brought into camp shall be delivered immediately to the Quarter Master and any person appropriating horses or any other property to his own use shall be arrested and punished as a Court Martial shall direct.

This order shall be read to every Captain and all Officers are charged to see it executed.

By order

F. W. Johnson
Adjt and Inspect. Genl

S F Austin
Comr in Chief

Head Quarters Concepcion Novr. 11, 1835

[1]To Capt. W. B. Travis, I [have] just been informed by Our faithfull Harvey Birch of your success in taking a cavallarda from the enemy of about 300 head. Your messenger informs me that these horses are all very poor, being the refuse horses that were dispatched from Bexar some time since for Laredo, this being the case the horses will be useless to us here, they will be a burden and all be lost. You will therefore drive them to the neighborhood of Seguin's Ranch, and make an arrangement with him to take care of them by employing men for that purpose. You will also leave a few of your men of confidence with them. This arrangement must however be left pritty much to your discretion, as it is uncertain whether Seguin will undertake to keep the cavallarda or can procure men to mind them. You will therefore make the best arrangement you can to secure the horses, and have them kept in good pasture where they will recruit.

I have to thank you, and express my approbation of your conduct and that of your men in this affair. It has been creditable to yourselves and usefull to the service.

You will report as speedily as possible what disposition is made of the Cavallarda, and return to Head Quarters with as little delay as possible, as I wish to employ you on other important service of an active nature.

You will bring in to headquarters as many of the horses as are fit for active service—say twenty or thirty at least—that is if they are fit for service. I need four to retain for expresses, and one good one for my staff.

Yours respectfully

S. F. Austin

[(]Confidential.)

Head Quarters
Concepcion, Nov. 11
1835

[2]To Capt. Travis,

Yesterday I dispatched Capt Fannin to cut off the reinforcement of 500 men—(300 are convicts tied)—and a quantity of

[1]A. L. S.
[2]A. L. S.

flour that from accounts are now at or on this side of the Nueces. They will according to the information leave the road at or near the Rio Frio and go north to the hills and come in above the Rio Grande Road. It is however possible they may take the lower route, cross the river below the Medina and try to get in in the night by going up the Salado. Every point must be watched. This reinforcement must be cut off. Fannins force is 150 men—all picked. He will inquire for you at Salinas Ranch. I wish you if possible, to communicate with Fannin and inform him that I recd. information last night and this morning corroborating all the accounts previously received before his departure, and that the reinforcements and Convoy are daily expected. One hundred of the enemies cavalry were sent out this morning to the Leon. They are sent out there every day for grass. This seems to confirm the opinion that the Convoy are expected from that quarter, but still they may come in below.

Yours respectfully,

S. F. Austin
Nov. 11 1835

Head Quarters Concepcion

[1]William Scott is hereby appointed forage and wagon master—it is his especial duty to keep the army or the division of it he may be attached to well supplied with corn and grass or fodder—so far as practicable—also to see that the drivers take good care of their oxen and feed them well and keep them properly secured, so that they do not stray away and are always ready when needed. He will apply to the Adj. Genl. for the necessary guards

S. F. Austin

Nov 17—This day Scott resigned—and his duties were assigned to the Quarter Master.

[General order]

For as much as the interests of the Country the success of the Campaign and the Safety and Honor of the Army require that order and discipline should be observed as far as it is possible to do so.

[1]A. D. S.

It is ordered that no one pass the guard lines at any time without written permission from the Commander in Chief.

It is also ordered that each company in camp be paraded at the Sound of the trumpet morning and evening, the roll called and the number present reported to the proper officer.

The Commander in Chief has no higher ambition than the interests of the Country and the Safety and honor of the Army and expects every officer in the line to use his influence and utmost exertions to preserve order and regularity and to prevent shooting without leave.

Head Quarters—Novr. 12th 1835

S. F. Austin.

[1]Don Salvador Floris

Marcha V. con su, partida á buscar la partida del Cap. Fannin que debe estar en Atascosa ó Medina. En el rancho de Salinas ó algun otro rancho debe V. tener noticias de Fannin.

El Objeto de este espedicion es espiar si es cierto q. viene resfuerzos ó convoy para el enemigo. Tambien quemara V. todo el pais desde el otro lado de las Nueces hasta Medina sobre los caminos de Laredo y rio grande.

En el caso de tomar Cavallos publico del enemigo pueda V. guardar los de los mejores pa. cada uno de su partida, como propriedad de ellos ademas de los qe se necesitan para el servicio. El Cap. Fannin dará á V. diez hombres pa. juntarse con su partida.

Canton en Concepcion 14 de Noviembre, 1835

Estevan F. Austin.

[1]*Translation.*

Don Salvador Flores:

March with your detachment to seek the detachment of Captain Fannin, which ought to be on [the] Atascosa or [the] Medina. At the ranch of Salinas or some other ranch you ought to have news of Fannin.

The object of this expedition is to discover whether it is certain that reenforcements or convoy[s] are coming to the enemy. You will also burn off the whole country from the other side of the Nueces to the Medina on the roads from Laredo and [the] Rio Grande.

In case of taking public horses from the enemy you can keep two of the best for each man of your detachment as his private property, besides those which are needed for the service. Captain Fannin will give you ten men to be joined with your detachment.

Stephen F. Austin.

Concepción neighborhood,
November 14, 1885.

Head Quarters—before Bexar
Nov. 14, 1835.

[1]I have the satisfaction to inform you that since my last some important advantages have been gained over the enemy. Cap Travis has taken 300 head of horses that were sent out of Bexar to Laredo. They are poor horses and were taken about 40 miles from here.

The enemy is closely shut up in Bexar and more and more discouraged every day. All we need is perseverance and reinforcements to keep up the army. I exhort the convention to hurry on reinforcements with all possible despatch, and the campaign will soon end.

There is very little prospect that the enemy will get any aid from the interior.

S. F. Austin.

To the Consultation
of Texas.

[2]On the 12th instant Col. Edward Burlison who commands the Camp at the mill station above Bexar, came to head quarters at the Mission of Concepcion below Bexar, accompanied by W. H. Wharton Esqr. who represented to the Commander in Chief that they had been sent down by the upper division for the express purpose of requesting in the name and on behalf of the officers and men of that division, that the two divisions of the army should be united at the same place, either above or below, and that if this was not done, the dissatisfaction would be so great, that a large number, even whole companies would leave and go home as they did not consider the force sufficient to be divided or to invest Bexar all round.

In consequence of this representation from the upper division, and after consulting with the principal officers of the lower division the commander in chief ordered that the two divisions unite above Bexar, as that is the most elligible point to procure supplies and harrass the enemy, and the provisions be moved up tomorrow and

[1]A. L. S.
[2]Written by Austin. Both the signatures at the end are apparently autographs.

the division as soon as practicable after the heavy baggage is removed.

E. Burleson Colo Comadant

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters
Concepcion
Nov. 14, 1835.

Head Quarters Nov 15th 1835
At Concepcion

To Col Burleson

Night before last Col Ugartachear left Bexar with one hundred and fifty men to meet [an] expected Convoy on the Rio Grande road. This Convoy must be intercepted. I have determined to dispatch the Adjtant Genl with two hundred men tonight. You will detail one hundred and twenty from your division and eighty will be detailed from this to make up the two hundred. The detachment from your division will be at the dam as early in the afternoon as practicable to unite at that place with the other. They will draw rations for three days at least also direct the Qt. Master to send to the dam rations for the eighty men of this division who are to go.

This movement must be very prompt and not a moment must be lost. Col. Johnson has orders to make all the arrangements and lose no time.

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters 15th Nov 1835
Mill Station above Bexar

To Col Edwd. Burleson[1]

You will take command of a detachment to consist of from one hundred to one hundred and thirty men which is destined to march to the Leon and Madina In order that you may have a full idea of the objects of this expedition I give you the following information which has been received—

It is known positively that Col Ugartachea with a force of Cavalry of from one hundred to two hundred men for the accounts

[1]L. S.

vary as to number and it is probable he has not over one hundred and fifty left Bexar last night or the night before.

The reports as to his destination are two, one is that he went the expected reinforcements, the other is that he has gone to try to recover the cavyard taken by Travis and to intercept Capt Fannin. This latter report is the most probable and the one to which I give the most credit. You will consequently march with all possible dispatch to the Madina and send spies to all the crossings of the Rio Grande and Laredo roads and particularly to Paras' Ranch and also to Rodarigues Ranch and should you hear any certain intelligence that Ugartachea has passed on in search of Fannin or Travis, you will use evry possible exertion to intercept him and cut his party to pieces and to afford immediate aid to Fannin or Travis in your power. The detachment of seventy men that was ordered out the day Fannin started met with a For[a]ging party of the enimy and turned back which unfortunately prevented their junction with Fannin which has left the force of the latter too weak for his exposed situation. You will therefore permit nothing to turn you back until you have made evry exertion to hear of Fannin or Travis and to afford them aid should they need it; if however you meet with a forageing or any other party of the enimy defeat them if in your power to do so, but do not permit this to stop you from going on to attend to the main objects of this expedition, which are to intercept reinforcements if any are coming on and to aid Fannin and Travis and cut off Ugartachea. I rely fully on the zeal patriotism and bravery of the officers and men composing your detachment for the most prompt and efficacious execution of the objects of this expedition. Your companions in arms under Fannin and Travis may be in iminent danger I wish you to fly to their assistance. Reinforcements may be coming on to cut them off [which] would decide the campaign. Glory and duty impell you to action and your country will reward your services. S. F. Austin.

Nine Oclock, P. M. I have the satisfaction to inform you that Capt. Travis has this moment arrived without accident having secured the Cavyard by sending it beyond the Guadaloupe. He heard nothing of the enimy. Capt. Fannin proceeded on the Laredo road intending to go as far as Rio Frio. As there is no

doubt from various sources of information that Ugartachea went out, the probability of intercepting or hearing of him at some point on the Madina is very great.

I think it doubtful whether the forageing party will be sent to the Leon tomorrow owing to the whole army being united so near to that place. You can however make an effort to find them and cut them off should they be there. The absence of Ugartachea's party will probably prevent the enimy from sending out reinforcements. A party however will be ordered in the morning in that direction to prevent it should it be attempted.

In an expedition of the description you are charged with a great deal must necessarily be left to your discretion you will therefore use it according to your best judgment and to circumstances. Should you obtain any *certain* and *positive* information of importance forward an express to me with it. You will return as soon as may be consistent with the objects of the expedition.

S .F. Austin[1]

[2]10 O'clock P. M.

I have this moment recd. a message from a well known and very confidential friend who sent it by the Mexican Badilla from Nacogdoches, who has just returned from Medina. The message is that no reinforcements are on this side of the Rio Grande and that none can possibly be on in less than ten days or two weeks, and doubtfull whether they will come at all. I send you Badilla and another Mexican as guides. The first will inform you who sent the message. I do not wish his name mentioned. This being the case Ugartechea's object is to intercept the cavallarda and Fannin and perhaps you can hear of him on [the] Medina. I have given you all the information on the subject I have recd. The only thing certain is that Ugartachea is out some where, and the probability is he went after Fannin and Travis.

S. F. Austin[1]

Send to the rancho on [the] Leon and make inquiries [but] touch nothing there, they are friends. Peter is there. Also enquire at Navarros ranch on the upper Rio Grande road beyond

[1]Autograph. The last two sentences above the signature are also in Austin's hand.

[2]The two postscripts that follow are written and signed by Austin.

[the] Medina. All the reports except this one brought by Badilla say that the reinforcements *are* near.

S. F. Austin.

Head Quarters
16th Novr 1835

In consequence of Capt. Scott having been appointed Forage and Waggon Master [1]Duncan was elect[ed] Capt of the Staff Guard at an election held by said company this day.

General Orders[2]

Head Quarters. Mill Station
above Bexar 16th Novr 1835

The Captain or commandant of each company is particularly and positively ordered to prevent any of the men of their respective companies from shooting in the lines or out of them without permission and to send to the guard fire any person who violates this order, and also to prevent gambling or any noisy or disorderly conduct in their companies in compliance with the general orders on this subject.

The said captains or commandants are also ordered to direct their men to tie up and secure their horses evry night as information has been given that small parties have been organized in Bexar to go out on foot evry night and steal them. Should the men lose their horses after receiving this caution it will be their own faults

It is positively prohibited that any person kill a beef except by special order of the Quarter Master.

By order

S. F. Austin

F. W. Johnson
Adjt. and Inspct. Gen.

[1]The original has a blank space before this name, left for subsequent insertion of the initials, but never filled.
[2]D. S.

General Orders[1]

Head Quarters Mill Station
above Bexar
16th Novr 1835

The public service and the welfare of evry individual in the army requires that all our resources and especially the corn should be economized and saved as much as possible. It is therefore ordered that the corn shall be gathered and hawled into camp and regularly issued in rations by the Quater Master until the corn can be hawled in. The captains of each company will detail a sufficient number of men from their respective Companies to bring in corn under the direction of the Quater Master who will issue it to the companies who bring it in in rations of not more than one peck per horse.

The Captains will take special care that their men do not feed on the ground which produces great waste, but that they feed on a blanket or skin, or in a small bag hung below the horses mouth. It is particularly enjoined on all the officers to attend especially to this order and to prevent all waste or lavish use of corn—other ways our stock will soon be exausted. The men which the Captains of companies are ordered to detail for the purpose of getting corn, will report themselves to the Quarter master evry day at six oclock in the morning

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters above Bexar
Nov. 17 1835

To Patrick C. Jack Quarter Master,[2]

You will immediately take charge of all the wagons and oxen—ascertain what drivers are employed on wages and at what price and by whom employed—employ other drivers of well known fidelity on wages, if necessary and see that they take proper care of the oxen and do their duty. You will proceed immediately to have the corn gathered and hauled in and prevent all waste and see that it is regularly issued in rations agreeably to the genl. order of yesterday. You will at once perceive the great impor-

[1]D. S.
[2]A. L. S.

tance of this measure and that all waste of corn or of beef be carefully guarded against and prevented. The genl. order of yesterday positively prohibits any one from killing a beef without special order from the Quarter master. You will see that this order is attended to, and also that no more beeves are killed than are needed dayly for use, and that there is no waste. You will apply to the adjt. Genl. in writing for the details of men, needed to gather corn, or for other purposes. I rely on your zeal and activity to discharge your duty promptly and dilligently.

The men who are detailed by the captains of companies to bring in corn untill it can be hauled will go to the fields on the east side of the river, and will not touch any of thecorn on the west side.

S. F. Austin

Copy

Camp above Bexar Nov 17th 1835

To Genl S F Austin Commander
in chief of the Army of Texas

Having arrived at this place on yesterday with nineteen men, I beg leave hereby to report myself and company to you and to be considered as attached permanently to your Army.

Enclosed is a list of the names of the members of my Company

Very Respectfully etc

Capt. D. Garner

Wm. H Green	Patin Blan
John Willis	John Choat
Michael Green	Henry Garms
Jacob Garner	John Haines
Wm Ashworth	George Ivens
Uriah Harris	Charles Cronia
John P Wallis	Joseph Richey
John Dulin	Solomon Cole
M. Hattin	

The above is a correct Copy of the original this day filed by me

Wm. T. Austin
Aid de Camp

Head Quarters
17th Novr 1835

[1]On the 14th of Novr. two deserters came in, one of cavalry and one of infantry to the camp at concepcion, and on the 15 and 16 one artillery man and two cavalry deserted to the mill station above town They report that desertions are frequent, and that the soldiers are getting more and more discouraged every day—that the fortifications are very strong and well arranged—that Col Ugartechea left Bexar in the night of the 14 with 100 cavalry, supposed by some to recover the cavallarda taken by Travis. Others said his object was to join the expected reinforcements and convoy, and that he took 100 muskets with him on packs. The only thing in which all the reports agree is that he did go out on the night of the 14th with upwards of 100 men.

Since the 14, no parties of the enemy have been seen beyond the reach of the cannon on the walls. Scouts from our army went round Bexar every day. On the 16 at night Capt. Travis returned to camp having dispatched the captured cavallarda to Gonzales under the charge of John R. Foster—he brought in six horses and 4 prisoners—the horses were sold at auction by the Quarter master.

Head Quarters above Bexar
Nov, 18, 1835

To Cap. Felipe Dimmit[2]

On recept of this you will deliver to Capt. Geo. M. Collinsworth the command of that fort and town. I regret to say that I am compelled to adopt this measure, owing to complaints made by Govr. Viesca and also by the Acting Alcalde of that place and other sources. These complaints show that great harshness has been used towards the inhabitants of Goliad. This conduct is the reverse of what I had expected and had ordered and is well calculated to injure the cause we are engaged in

Col. Gonzales did not come here, as I am informed owing to the reception Gov. Viesca and himself met with at Goliad. This

[1]In Stephen F. Austin's hand.
[2]A. L. S.

officer would have been very usefull here, for there is but little doubt he could have drawn nearly all the cavalry out of Bexar.

God and Liberty— S. F Austin

Head Quarters
above Bexar Nov. 18, 1835

To Cap. Geo. M Collinsworth[1]

I have this day issued the following order to Capt. P. Dimmit (here the order) In complyance with this order you will on recept of this take command of Goliad, Send for the citizens and Alcalde and inform them if they have been iltreated it was contrary to my orders.

I wish all the troops that can be spared from there to march to this place. In fact I do not think it important to retain a garrison there at present and the place might be left in charge of Mr. Powers and the civil authority or some other person of your confidence. God and Liberty

S. F. Austin

[2]He recibido el oficio de V. quejando de la conducta de D. Felipe Dimit. En consequencia de lo ql. me ha dicho v. y el sor Viesca y otras personas, he mandado al Sor Dimitt entregar el mando al Sor Gorge Collinsworth, ordenando á este de obrar de acuerdo con la autoridad civil y los vecinos que han pronunciado en favor de la constitucion.

Dios y Libertad. Campo arriva de Bexar
Novr. 18, 1835.

E. F. A.

D. Roberto Galan
Alcalde interino de Goliad

[1]A. L. S.

[2]Written by Stephen F. Austin, and signed with the initials of the Spanish form of his name.

Translation.

I have received your official note complaining of the conduct of Mr. Philip Dimit. In consequence of what you and Sr. Viesca and other persons have said to me, I have ordered Mr. Dimit to turn over the command to Mr. George Collingsworth, enjoining it upon the latter to work in accord with the civil authority and the citizens who have pronounced in favor of the constitution.

God and Liberty. Camp above Bexar,
Nov. 18, 1835.

D. Roberto Galan,
Alcalde *ad interim* of Goliad.

E. F. A.

Head Quarters before Bexar Nov. 18, 1835, 12 o'clock.

To the President of the General consultation of Texas[1]

In my last I communicated the taking of a cavallarda of 300 horses by a detachment under the command of Cap. W. B. Travis. I now enclose his detailed report, and beg leave to recommend the services of Cap. Travis and the men who composed his party

On the 9th instant I recd information which was entitled to attention, that a reinforcement was on the road from Laredo to join Genl. Cos. I immediately ordered Capt. Fannin to take command of sixty five men from the encampment at the Mission of Concepcion, which were to have been joined by an equal number from the encampment above Bexar, and to proceed on the Laredo road to intercept the reported reinforcements. Cap Fannin marched promptly, but was not joined by the party from the upper camp, he however proceed[ed] on the Laredo road as far as rio frio. He returned last night. I enclose his official report. This officer has been very efficient and I recommend him as one of the officers of the regular army when it is organized.

On the 14th I recd. information that Col Ugartechea left Bexar the night before for Laredo supposed[ly] for the purpose of escorting the expected reinforcements—I immediately dispatched Col. Burlison with one hundred and thirty men in pursuit of him. I have since learned that Ugartechea had a man for a pilot who has lived with the Comanches and that he will make a great circuit by the hills on the head of [the] Medina, the prospect of Burlison's meeting him is therefore doubtfull. According to the best accounts the reinforcements have not yet left Laredo.

The enemy are shut up in the walls and fortifications of Bexar, parties of our volunteers go round the town dayly, and within cannon shot. We have picked up about twenty of their six pound shot.

I have heretofore on various occasions submitted to a council of officers the Storming of the fortifications, and I am now decidedly in favor of that measure, so soon as the orleans Greys get up from Goliad; and Burlisons detachment returns. The works are stronger than they were but are greatly extended, and consequently the defending force is very much scattered. The troops inside are

[1]A. L. S.

also very much discouraged and begin to consider the contest as hopeless, cut off as they are from resources with a wilderness in the rear, which has been burnt nearly all the way to rio Grande on all the roads. Bexar must fall in a short time for want of resources without loss on our part and I think it could be Stormed successfully, tho at very considerable risk of loosing men.

My health which has been very bad from severe dysentery since the army left the Cibolo, has improved within the last few days very much.

The army has done all that could have been done under the circumstances, and without materials, and organization, which latter is purely voluntary. It deserves great credit for its suferings and perseverance. I have every confidence that a short time will end this campaign.

Yours respectfully

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters above Bexar Nov. 18, 1835
3 O'clock P. M.

[1]Since writing my communication of this date (12 o'clock) I recd. those of the convention informing the army of the provisional organization of an executive authority and council—and of my appointment to the U. S. as a commissioner, and requesting my personal services at San Felipe without delay. As I have just recd. this intelligence, I can only say that I am ready at all times to serve Texas in any station where it is considered I can be usefull. Some prudence will be necessary to keep this army together should I leave at once. I therefore cannot at this time say when I can be in San Felipe, but will give you the earliest possible information on this subject.

God Liberty and federation

S. F. Austin

To the provisional executive
Govt of Texas

[1]A. L. S.

Head Quarters Nov. 18, 1835.

[1]I have recd. an official letter from Govr. Viesca informing me of his escape from prison, arrival in Texas, and bad reception he met with from Cap. Dimmit. The alcalde of Goliad and many others complain of Dimmit, and I have ordered him to deliver the command of Fort Goliad to Cap. Geo. M. Collingsworth.

I particularly recommend Gov. Viesca and Col. Gonzales to the attention of the executive Govt. I have invited the latter to this camp with his men. If he was here I have no doubt he could draw over two companies at least of cavalry now in Bexar as he once commanded them. It was his intention to have come here from Goliad but [he] was so confounded and discouraged by the reception he met with from Capt. Dimmit that he became discouraged and concluded to hault as I am informed at James Kerrs on Labacca until he heard from me. I have sent an express to him to that place inviting him to the camp. Should he have gone to San Felips I request that you will invite him to join this army

Yours Respectfully

S. F. Austin

To the Provisional
Govt. of Texas.

General Orders

Head Quarters
21st Novr 1835

It is announced to the Army that it will be organized into divisions this day for the purpose of storming Bexar to-morrow morning. The captains of Companies will report to the Adjt. Genl by ten OClock today a roll of their respective companies stating those who have left yesterday or today

All communication with Bexar is prohibited

Signed

S F Austin

To S. F. Austin Comr in Chief

On recipt of your Genl. order of this date announcing that an attack on the fortifications of Bexar would be made by Storm

[1]In Stephen F. Austin's hand down to the sentence beginning "If he was here," etc. The remainder and the signature are copied.

tomorrow morning I have ascertained the disposition of the officers and men of my division and believe it to be my duty to report that a majority of them are opposed to the measure and are unwilling to attempt it and I concur in opinion with them

Philip A. Sublett[1]

21 Nov 1835 Lt Col.

Camp above Bexar

To S F Austin 21st Novr 1835

Comr. in Chief

On receipt of your general order of this date announcing that an attack on the fortifications would be made by storm to-morrow morning—I have ascertained that[2] the dispositions of the officers and men of my division and believe it to be my duty to report that a majority of them are opposed to the measure and are unwilling to attempt it.

Edward Burleson[3]

Colo Comadt

[4]Nov. 21, 1835. Col. Edward Burlison and Lieut. Col. Philip Soublet who are the immediate commanders of the two divisions of the army, having in the above reports made known to me that a majority of their respective divisions are opposed to storming Bexar and are unwilling to attempt it, and having ascertained from other sources that this majority is very large and that not more than 100 men can be obtained to go into the measure, necessity compels me to countermand the order for storming.

S. F. Austin

[5]The battery ordered to be erected within 300 yds of the walls of the fortifications will be commenced this night, under the command of Capt. Cheshire assisted by Dr. James Grant as engineer.

Nov. 21, 1835. S. F. Austin

[1]Sublett's autograph.
[2]This word seems to have been inadvertently inserted.
[3]Burleson's autograph. The omission by Burleson of Sublett's closing statement, the reports being otherwise identical, is significant.
[4]A. D. S.
[5]A. D. S.

[1]Nov 22d, 1835. The company of volunteers from New Orleans commanded by Capt. Morris joined the Army on the 21st in the afternoon and the Capt. reported his company ready for duty, this day.

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters near Bexar,
22d Novr. 1835

To the Provisional Govt[2]

Yesterday I issued an order to storm Bexar at day light this morning. Col. Burleson and Lieut. Col. Soublett, the immediate commanders of the two divisions of the army, reported to me that a majority of the officers and men of their divisions were opposed and unwilling to attempt it in consequence of which I was compelled to abandon the measure.

The seige may be prolonged some time The army is now out of Flour and the corn is exhausted I therefore have to request that at least one hundred barrels of Flour and a supply of beans and sea bread or hard biscuit be sent to this army without any delay.

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters Novr. 24, 1835.

[3]This day the army was paraded for the purpose of ascertaining how many volunteers would remain before Bexar as a permanent force under a comr. to be elected by themselves. The present comr. having been called by the convention to proceed immediately to San Felipe to go to the U. S. as a comr. On putting the question to the line four hundred and five men turned out and pledged themselves to remain, and a roll of them was ordered to be furnished by each Capt. which is filed.

On the same day an order was issued for an election for the com. the result of which was as follows—Edward Burleson was unanimously elected Comr. in Chief

F. W. Johnson appointed Adjt. and Inspt. Genl

Wm. T. Austin appointed Aid de Camp

[1]A. D. S.
[2]L. S.
[3]In Stephen F. Austin's hand, except the words "four hundred and five men," and what comes after the words "as follows."

[1]Col. Edward Burlison, Leut Col. Philip Soublett and Leut John York are appointed appraisers to appraise the horses and equipments of the volunteers who remain before Bexar

S. F. Austin

Novr 24, 1835.

[2]The above appraisers will enter into their duty immediately, and report to head Quarters to night a list of the appraisment.

S. F. Austin

[3]An election will be held in each Captains company for a commander of the volunteers who remain before Bexar. None but those who are pledged to remain will vote. The returns of the election will be made at head Quarters by 5 P. M Oclock this day Nov. 24, 1835.

Head Quarters of the federal
Army of Texas
Before Bexar Nov. 24, 1835.

[4]Since my last I have recd information which renders it necessary and highly important that fort Goliad should be retained and fortified as strongly as possible. You will therefore maintain your position with all the force you have and all you can collect. In the event of the army's raising the siege of this place a considerable portion of it will retire to that Goliad.[5] Col. James Bowie will proceed to that place in a few days

The convention have appointed me a commissioner to proceed to the U. S. and I am directed to go on my mission forthwith. In consequence of which I shall leave here to-morrow and hurry on to[6] the N. Orleans without any delay. Col. Ed. Burlison remains in command of the army and you will be subject to his orders.

By intercepted letters from Lipantliclan it appears that no

[1]A. D. S.
[2]This and the foregoing are evidently intended as a single order.
[3]In Stephen F. Austin's hand.
[4]A. D. S.
[5]The word "place" was written first, and then "Goliad" was written over it. The "that" was not marked out, as it should have been.
[6]In the original another "to" is written immediately after the word "hurry."

more troops had occupied that place, than were there before; that the Govt. in Mexico are organizing an army of 10,000 men to be commanded by Genl. Santana in person who is to be on in the Spring, and that efforts are making to send on reinforcements to this place.

Ys. respectfully

S. F. Austin